WOLF359
WOLF 359 CONVENTIONS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE 5 TIMES
PRESENT
THE 5 TIMES
THE ALLIANCE

WELCOME TO
THE ALLIANCE

11th - 14th JULY 1997
NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL, BLACKPOOL, UK

WOLF 359 and the ***The 5 Times*** are proud to host this spectacular Convention at the Norbreck Castle Hotel. We have all worked long and hard to make this event possible and do hope you are pleased with the results, after all it could not happen without you and all the others here!

In addition to the stunning array of *Babylon 5* guests, you can expect the usual lively atmosphere that is a **WOLF 359** Convention, with plenty of activities, Guest Talks, and a full supporting program of Games, Make-up Sessions, Fan Club gatherings and special events. If that wasn't enough, the *SFX* Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday evening *and* we have four huge parties and a Fancy Dress competition with plenty of opportunities to mix with fellow enthusiasts and with the stars themselves!.

A big ***'thank you'*** for supporting **WOLF 359** - we hope to see you again (and again) at one (or more) of our future events...

The **WOLF 359** Committee is:

Janet Lawn
Wendy Holt
Margo White
Brian Cooney

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In just 5 years, **Wolf 359** Conventions have established themselves as the UK's premier SF events organisers. Back in October 1994, Wolf 359 were the first in the UK to run a convention with any B5 content when *The 5 Times* Editorial Crew were invited to present a talk at Wolf's second major convention, *The Rematch*. Since then a symbiotic 'alliance' has existed between *Wolf 359* and the *Babylon 5 UK Fan Club*... *The Rematch* was the second *Trek* Convention to be organised by Wolf, and the main guest was **Walter Koenig**, known for his portrayal of Chekov and now, of course, as Bester!

The next year, 1995, *Wolf 359: The Gathering* was a *Trek-B5* event with **Majel Barrett-Roddenberry** representing *Trek*, who later went on to guest star in *B5* - in fact that deal was initiated at the Convention! This time, Wolf worked in association with *The 5 Times* and accordingly the balance was tipped toward Babylon with **J Michael Straczynski, Michael O'Hare and Ed Wasser.**

1996 saw the now legendary *Wolf 359: The Encounter*, again organised in association *with The 5 Times* and in addition to *Trek* headliner, **Rene Auberjonois**, presented the stunning *B5* guest line-up of **JMS, Bruce Boxleitner, Stephen Furst, Bill Mumy, Greg Funk, Fionagh Cush, Joanne Higgins**, and making his first ever B5 convention appearance, **Andreas Katsulas**! *SFX* magazine called it *"the* event for B5 fans worldwide!"

Now, with *The Alliance, Wolf 359* have outdone even themselves with the biggest *B5* guest line up in the universe, ever!

In addition to the major *B5* and *Trek* Conventions, *Wolf 359* have organised many one day mini-conventions and have assisted in providing guests for other major fan-run events in the UK and Europe. The great achievement of *Wolf 359* is all the more impressive as they are fan-run events, organised by volunteers, and donate profits to charity!

The ALLIANCE
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The ALLIANCE is a non-profit making event in aid of the NSPCC and Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital.

THE BIGGEST THANK YOU!
TO ALL INVOLVED
IN WHATEVER CAPACITY WITH THE
ORGANISATION OF *THE ALLIANCE*.
THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE THIS DREAM
FORM ARE FAR TOO NUMEROUS
TO MENTION INDIVIDUALLY.
PLEASE ACCEPT THE GRATITUDE OF
ALL AT *WOLF 359* AND *THE 5 TIMES*
IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOU!

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J MICHAEL STRACZINSKI

Creator, Writer, Director, Executive Producer, *Babylon 5*

Now more generally known to his legions of fans and followers as 'The Great Maker' or simply, 'JMS', Joseph Michael Straczynski was born on 17 July 1954 in New Jersey, NY. He holds degrees in both Psychology and Sociology.

He started out as a journalist and for five years was the host of a weekly LA talk radio show, *Hour 25*, which focused on all aspects of science fiction. He has written over a dozen produced radio-dramas, many for the nationally syndicated series *Alien Worlds* and *Mutual Radio Theater*. His stage play, *The Apprenticeship* was produced for a successful twenty-week run at the Marquis Public Theater in San Diego, 1980.

Straczynski soon earned respect as a competent and reliable television producer for *Murder, She Wrote* and for his work on the new *Twilight Zone, The Real Ghostbusters* animated adventures, and *Captain Power*.

He has written two dark fantasy novels, *Othersyde* and *Demon Night* - which was nominated for the Bram Stoker Horror Writers Of America Award. His adaptations of his *Twilight Zone* TV scripts were published as *Tales From The New Twilight Zone* and his *Complete Book of Scriptwriting* has become an invaluable text to any aspiring screen writer. A long time fan of the comic book genre, he has also written for the graphic medium, including *Worldsinger* for DC Comics *Star Trek* series and also two story arcs for the *Babylon 5* Comics series.

BRUCE BOXLEITNER

Captain John Sheridan, *Babylon 5*

A prolific and much loved TV actor, Bruce Boxleitner was born on 12 May 1950 in Elgin, Illinois. He received his dramatic grounding at the prestigious Goodman Theater in Chicago and moved to LA in 1972, where his first TV role was in *The Mahicans*, pilot for the epic series *How The West Was Won*.

Since then, he has starred in numerous mini-series including four out of the five *Gambler* series, as Billy Montana, Judith Krantz's *Till We Meet Again*, and more recently Danielle Steel's *Zoya*, in which he co-starred with his wife, Meilissa Gilbert, whom he married on 1 January 1995, and who has shared the screen with Bruce in the final episodes of B5's Season 3. He starred in the longer running TV serials, *Scarecrow and Mrs King* and *Bring 'Em Back Alive*.

He has featured in many notable movies including *The Babe* in which he co-starred with John Goodman, *Kuffs* as Christian Slater's brother, and Disney's groundbreaking SF film *Tron*, which also featured *Babylon 5* co-star, Peter Jurasik.

Bruce has many acting accolades from all over the world and is regularly listed among 'Most Watchable Men In America', 'TV's Top Leading Men' and 'TV's Top Hunks'..

CLAUDIA CHRISTIAN

Susan Ivanova, *Babylon 5*

Claudia Christian was born in Los Angeles and raised in Connecticut until the age of 14, when she returned to Southern California. She graduated from school at 16 to pursue her acting vocation. Like JMS, Claudia has been a member of Mensa and her IQ is high enough to qualify her as a genius.

From a very young age, Claudia felt drawn to stage and screen and made her debut in *Dallas*. Since then she has appeared in numerous TV series, mini-series and movies, including: *Calendar Girl Murders, Danielle Steel's Kaleidoscope, Blacke's Magic, Columbo, L A Law, Murder She Wrote, Berenger, Jake & The Fat Man, Quantum Leap* and *Space Rangers*.

Her big screen debut was as a stripper possessed by an alien in *The Hidden*. Among many others she has starred in *Hexed, Never On Tuesday, Arena, Maniac Cop 2, Clean & Sober, Relentless, The Chase* and soon in *Snide & Prejudice*.

Claudia also enjoys music and recently released her CD album, *Taboo*. She writes lyrics for country & western songs, and has also penned fiction and children's stories. She is also a member of a touring troupe who re-enact historical Scottish battles and she has a large collection of antique swords, daggers, dirks and eating sets.

MIRA FURLAN

Delenn, *Babylon 5*

Born and raised in Yugoslavia, Mira Furlan established herself as one of her country's best loved and highly acclaimed actors.

She made her stage debut whilst studying acting at the Academy in Zagreb, in the contemporary play *Alpha-Beta*, by English playwright, Whitehead. She went on to play major roles in the plays of Euripides, Shakespeare, Moliere, George Bernard Shaw and J Ford, among many others.

Mira first visited the UK at the age of 14 when she attended an English course in Colchester. She has returned many times since and has translated English plays for Yugoslavian performance.

Mira has received three Golden Globe Awards and appeared in 25 Yugoslavian films including *When Father Was Away On Business, Three For Happiness, Dear Video, The Condemned* and *Beauty Of Sin*.

Her portrayal of Delenn in *Babylon 5* marked her USA television debut.

BILL MUMY

Lennier, *Babylon 5*
Co-creator, *Space Cases*

Charles William Mumy Jnr was born on 1 February 1954 in San Gabriel, California, and since the age of five has made a career of his many and varied talents. Bill Mumy has made his mark as both a TV and feature film actor, as a writer, musician and composer. He is fondly remembered by many for his role in the cult SF series *Lost In Space*.

He is an accomplished musician and plays guitar, bass, keyboards, banjo, mandolin and percussion with his bands *Barnes & Barnes*, a novelty rock outfit, the L A based rock group *The Jenerators* and pop band *America*, as well as composing film theme music. He was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement In Musical Direction And Composition for his work for Disney's *Adventures In Wonderland*. Three of his songs have been recorded by acclaimed singer Rosemary Clooney.

As a writer he has contributed to the *Lost In Space* comics series, Clive Barker's *Hellraiser* comic, *The Hulk, Iron Man, Spiderman, Trypto the Acid Dog* and has been published in a couple short story anthologies.

His voice has been heard in animated productions such as *Beany And Cecil, Batman - The Animated Series* and *The Ren & Stimpy Show*. He co-created the SF series for television, *Space Cases*, which he has written and produced with Peter David - who has also written for *Babylon 5*.

PETER JURASIK

Londo Mollari, *Babylon 5*

Peter Jurasik was a well established character actor long before he brought Londo to life for *Babylon 5*.

He has amassed an impressive and extensive array of film credits spanning a career of two decades including *Tron*, in which he appeared with Bruce Boxleitner and David Warner, *Enemy Mine, Nightclub, Born Again* and *Straight Time*. He is probably best known for his numerous TV roles on shows such as *Columbo, Perry Mason, L A Law, Hill Street Blues, Beverly Hills Buntz, Night Court, Midnight Caller, Family Ties, Taxi, M*A*S*H* and *Barney Miller*.

Peter is a native New Yorker and, before embarking on his prolific screen and stage career, had studied at seminary school for four years before taking up his vocation as an actor with a stage production of *Godspell*...

STEPHEN FURST
Vir Cotto, *Babylon 5*

Stephen Furst has starred in many feature films and TV series. From being named, 'the fastest pizza delivery boy in the west' sixteen years ago, he gave up his title to appear in the hit comedy classic *National Lampoon's Animal House* as the loveable, bumbling frat freshman, Flounder. He has continued to star in movies, including *Silent Rage, Up The Creek, The Day After*, and along side Michael Keaton and Christopher Lloyd in *The Dream Team*..

He gained a major following for his role as Dr Eliott Axelrod in the highly acclaimed television medical drama series *St Elsewhere*.

More recently he is synonymous with a strange hair-do and big bushy eyebrows as Vir, assistant to Ambassador Londo Mollari aboard *Babylon 5*. Stephen says of his much loved character, "I always love to play different types of characters and this one is out of this world!".

PATRICIA TALLMAN
Lyta Alexander, *Babylon 5*

Patricia Tallman was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs and attended the Carnegie Melon University, where she graduated with honours. Her professional acting debut was in theatre, at the age of 15.

Pat then kept up her stage career in New York, where she met stunt people whilst studying period sword technique and kick-boxing. She moved to LA and trained in stunt work while working in theatre.

Soon she was one of the busiest stunt women in Hollywood for film and TV. Her film acting debut was in George Romero's *Knightriders*. She worked with Romero again when she starred in the remake of his classic, *Night Of The Living Dead*.

She has repeatedly appeared in *Star Trek* as a stunt double and guest starred in several episodes of *Next Generation* and *Deep Space 9*.

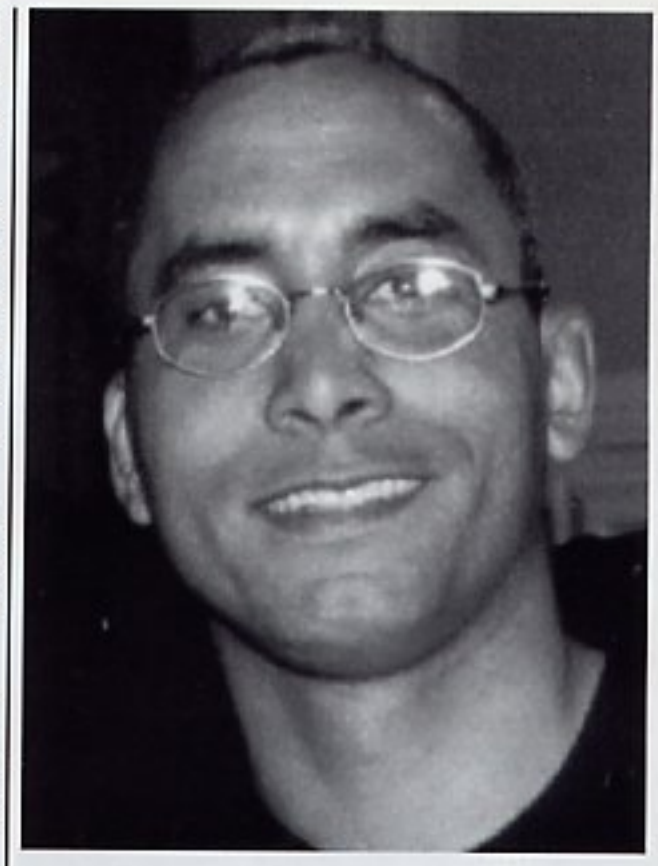
Notable stunt work includes *Star Trek: Generations, Jurassic Park, Another 48 Hours, Creepshow II, Ice* and more recently as Geena Davies' stand in for *The Long Kiss Goodnight*.

Pat has also appeared and guest starred in numerous films and TV shows including *Army Of Darkness, Monkey Shines, Tales From The Darkside* and recently made a brief appearance in *Dark Skies*.

RICHARD BIGGS
Stephen Franklin, *Babylon 5*

Richard Biggs started his acting career in community theatre whilst in high schools. He was then classically trained at the University of Southern California.

Richard became known to millions for his portrayal of Dr Marcus Hunter, for 5 years. in the USA TV soap, *Days Of Ours Lives*.

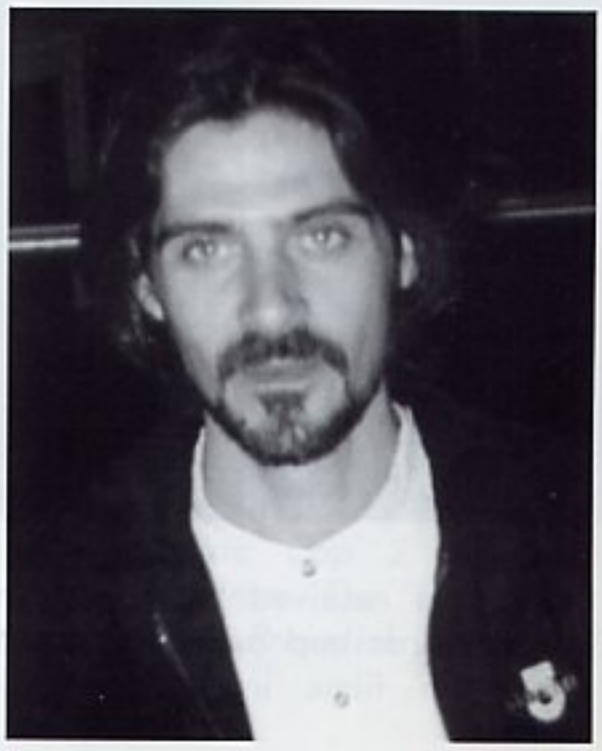


He has also appeared in *Falcon Crest, T J Hooker* and *Twilight Zone* and on the theatre stage in productions of *Romeo & Juliet, The Tempest, Look Back In Anger, Fanon's People* and *Shadow Box*.

JASON CARTER
Marcus Cole, *Babylon 5*

British actor, Jason Carter was born in London and raised in Lincolnshire from the age of four. He attended the prestigious London Academy Of Music And Dramatic Arts with whom he toured Europe in a production of *Romeo & Juliet*.

Jason's first professional acting role was in a *Jackanory Playhouse* for the BBC. He moved to LA in 1993 where he became well known for his regular role in *Beverley Hills 90210*.



In addition to many stage productions, Jason has made notable appearances in Jim *Henson's The Storyteller, Viper* and *Lois & Clark.* Recently he was voted as number one choice for Who Would Make A Good Doctor Who in the *SFX* annual readers' poll!

JEFF CONAWAY

Zack Allan, *Babylon 5*

Jeff Conaway is well known for his long-running starring role in *Taxi* and his role in the classic rock'n'roll movie, *Grease.*

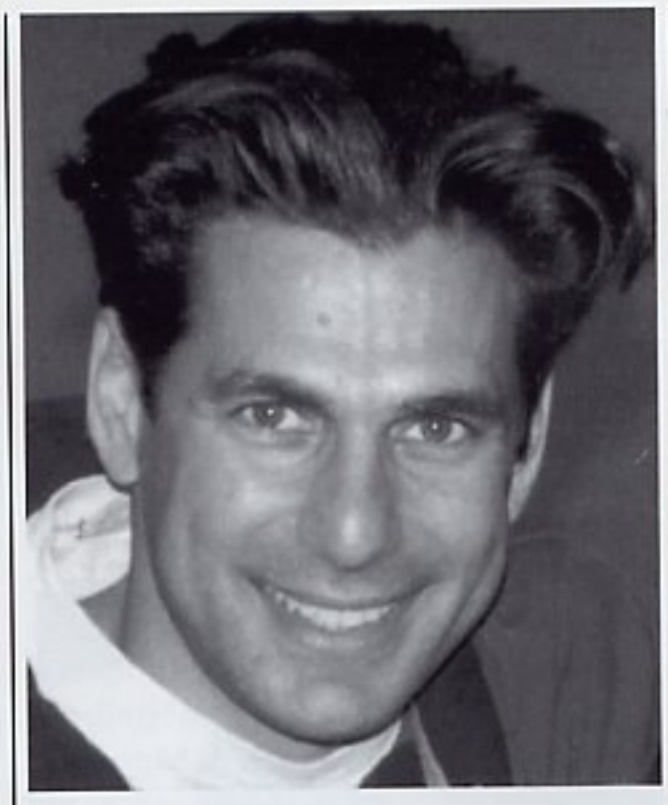
His numerous TV credits include recurring roles in *Murder She Wrote* and *The Bold & The Beautiful.* He has appeared in many mini-series and tele-movies including *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do, The Making Of A Male Model, Bay Coven* and *Dirty Dozen 4.* Jeff has also starred in popular Broadway productions of *Grease, All The Way Home* and *The News.*

Eye Of The Storm, Rape Of Eden, and *Sunset Strip* are among his notable feature film appearances.

ED WASSER

Morden, *Babylon 5*

Before joining the cast of *Babylon 5,* Ed Wasser was already becoming a name to watch out for on the New York stage - *The Roslyn News* said of Ed, " Absolutely charismatic . . . he



amuses and evokes, " *The New York Times* described him as "Excellent," and a particular performance as "Outstanding," whilst *The Village Beacon* proclaimed, "Ed Wasser exudes sexuality..."

Ed's debut TV role was in the soap, *Loving,* very soon after completing his training at the State University Of New York's Purchase drama school.

He worked extensively on the New York stage whilst running his own advertising company, AdSkates. Then he moved to LA to pursue his acting career full-time.

Ed first appeared on board Babylon 5 as a C&C technician in the pilot movie, and then returned as the dark and sinister Morden in *Signs And Portents...*

JEFFREY WILLERTH

Kosh, *Babylon 5*

Jeffrey Willerth spent five years as a radio DJ in Florida after graduating with a degree in

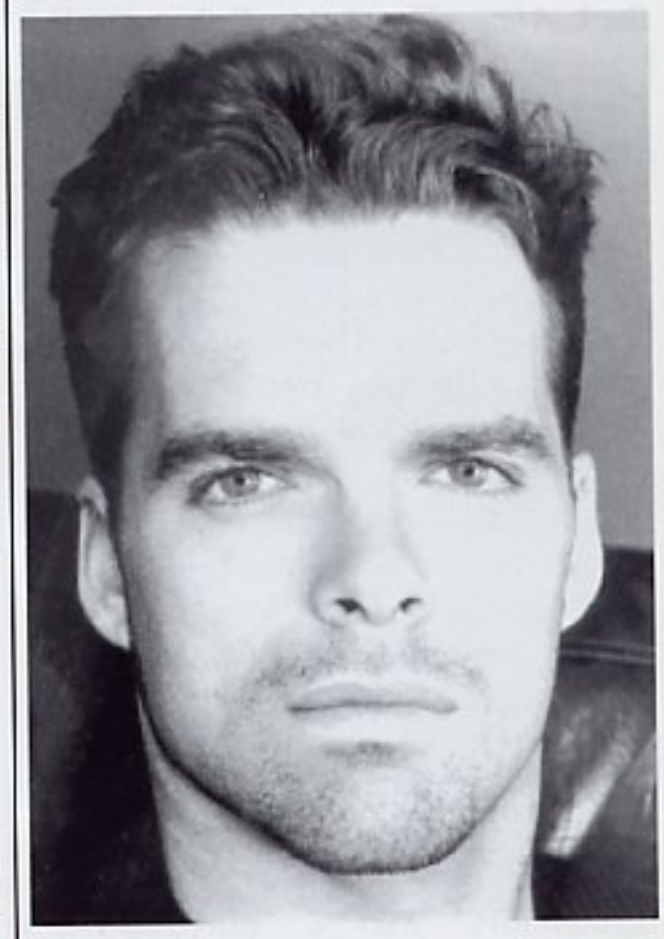
Broadcast Management. He first worked in television doing voice-overs before moving to media relations for the motorsports industry, producing ad campaigns and short segments for ESPN, TNN and MTv.

Jeffrey has since worked mainly as Assistant Director and Producer for independent film and video productions. He has also made appearances in front of the camera in television and feature films including *Nick Of Time, Up Close & Personal, Melrose Place, Little Rascals and Tall Tales.*

On *Babylon 5,* Jeffrey was the man inside Kosh and also acted as Bruce Boxleitner's stand-in before being promoted as Producer's Associate to John Copeland.

JOSHUA COX

David Corwin, *Babylon 5*



New Yorker, Joshua Cox began acting in high school plays before attending Suny Purchase drama school for four years, during which he performed in the same company as Ed Wasser... Joshua's TV career began with commercials and bit parts until a higher profile run in the US soap, *One Life To Live.* His first B5 appearance was in *Signs & Portents.* Since then, he has become a regular and familiar character in C&C for more than 25 episodes, so far...

WALTER KOENIG

Alfred Bester, *Babylon 5*
Pavel Chekov, *Star Trek*

Walter Koenig was born and raised in Chicago. His professional acting debut was in the play *Day In Court*, and his early career was mainly played out on the stage in productions such as *The Deputy* and *Actors*.

He earned himself a loyal fan following and became a household name as Chekov, in the second and third seasons of the original classic series of *Star Trek*.

His other television roles include *Columbo, Alfred Hitchcock Presents, The Untouchables, Combat* and *Ironside*.

In addition to the *Star Trek* movies, his many movie credits include the cult SF genre movie, *Moontrap*.

Walter is also the author of several books and teleplays including *Buck Alice, The Actor Robot*, and a book about the making *of Star Trek The Motion Picture*, titled *Chekov's Enterprise*.

Bester is a complete contrast to Chekov and this vast difference in characters illustrates the versatility of Walter's talent. "It's the best thing that has happened to me, as an actor, in a long time..."

He will be presenting a special one-man performance on Saturday evening of H P Lovecraft's *The Rats In the Wall*, utilising recorded dialogue provided by his wife Judy Levitt, who also appeared as a fellow Psi-Cop in *A Race Through Dark Places*.

JULIE CAITLIN BROWN

Na'Toth, *Babylon 5*

Julie Caitlin Brown was already established as an actress with the considerable talent and ability to act through full prosthetic masks before stepping into the role of Na'Toth. She had guest starred in Both *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine* as a recurring Klingon character.

She did appear as a human character, the lawyer Guinevere Corey in the Season 2 episode, *There All The Honor Lies*. To her various screen credits, she has more recently added, *The Book*, in which she starred with *Peter Fonda, Renegade, Vanishing Son, J A G* and *Point Man*.

Julie is also a professional singer-songwriter and secured a record deal earlier this year...

TONY DOW

Visual Effects Supervisor, Director, *Babylon 5*

Tony Dow has been a respected member of the entertainment industry for nearly four decades. He is probably best known for his starring role as Wally in *Leave It To Beaver*, one of the USA's most popular and longest running TV series. He has also starred in many other TV, film and theatrical productions.

During the last ten years, Tony has devoted most of his energies behind the camera. He has directed a variety of television shows, including episodes for *Coach, Harry & The Hendersons*, and *Swamp Thing*, and developed and produced Universal's remake of the SF classic *It Came From Outer Space*. He produced and supervised the visual effects for *The Adventures Of Captain Zoom In Outer Space* and also produced visual effects for the recent *Doctor Who* tele-movie.

He joined the *Bablyon 5* crew at the beginning of Season 4 as Visual Effects Supervisor and, shortly after, began directing episodes. So far, Tony has directed *Atonement, Moments Of Transition*, and *Rising Star*.

"B5 is a great family and a terrific atmosphere to work in," he says of his experiences, "Joe, John and Doug are very supportive and the goal of the whole crew is to produce the best show possible."

JOANNE HIGGINS

Production Assistant, *Babylon 5*

Joanne's career in multi-media includes a decade in film and television. She has an extensive background in production and is currently assistant to J Michael Straczynski.

Although the demands of production at *Babylon 5* can get hectic, Joanne has found time to develop projects of her own. She has produced the independent feature film *The Baby Shower* which is presently being shown in various film festivals, in the USA and internationally. She is also co-creator of the children's book series *Thesaurus Rex*.

GREG FUNK & FIONAGH CUSH

Make-Up Artists

Greg Funk and Fionagh Cush worked as principal on-set make-up artists for the Emmy Award winning Optic Nerve team on Seasons 2 and 3 of *Babylon 5*.

Apart from their wondrous creations for B5, their work can be seen in many major movies including

work for the legendary Roger Corman, and Italian horror maestro, Dario Argento's film adaptation of Edgar Allen Poe's *The Black Cat.*

Greg and Fionagh will be demonstrating prosthetic make-up techniques at special sessions during *The Alliance.*

JOHN FREEMAN

Editor, Official B*abylon 5 Magazine*

John Freeman has been involved with SF publishing for many years. His journalistic career started in 1980 editing the Lancaster University newspaper before setting up his own listings magazine there.

He has edited many comix titles for Marvel UK and also the *Doctor Who Magzine,* as well as extensive freelance work.

More recently he joined Titan Publishing as manager of their magazines and periodicals department and has overseen the production of such titles as *Star Trek Monthly, The Simpsons* and *Mask Adventures.*

The *Official Babylon 5 Magazine* has direct input from JMS, will carry on-going original comic series and be brimming with news, interviews and features. Other contributors include SF veteran journalist Joe Nazzaro, Jim Swallow, David Bassom, Christy Marx (writer of B5's *Grail*), David Baily, Gary Russel and Des Watkins...

S F X

The 1996 Awards, Sunday

What a difference a year can make! When *SFX* ran it first annual Readers Poll, *The X-Files* swept the board. Just 12 months later, and there was a new champion in town. That champion was *Babylon 5.* J Michael Straczynski's space opera supreme nearly whitewashed the TV section, leaving *The X-Files* with just one award - Best Actress for Gillian Anderson. It was the ultimate accolade from the people who matter the most in this industry - the viewers and the fans.

And where better to honour that achievement than the world's greatest *Babylon 5* convention, *The Alliance*? So that's exactly what's going to be happening on Sunday evening when the members of the cast and crew accept their *Robbies* at a ceremony presided over by Claudia Christian and *SFX* editor Dave Golder.

But that's not all. The *SFX* awards also cover films and books, and we'll be announcing the winners in those categories as well. Some special surprise guests will be turning up to accept them, or, in some cases, sending in some specially recorded messages. We're keeping 'mum' at the moment, but a certain Scottish author, an ex-rebel, a man who once wandered into a police box and a writer of one of the most successful films of all time could be making an appearance in one form or another!

Watch out for an extra special *Doctor Who* regeneration scene, and a special tribute to Jon Pertwee. And - we'll tell you this one for free - Gillian Anderson won't be turning up, so one member of the audience is going to go home with her award (and a good excuse to give her a phone call) as well as some other *X-Files* goodies... It's gonna be fun!

JANE KILLICK

Author

Jane Killick is the author of the on-going *Babylon 5 Season By Season* guides. Jane is an established contributor to UK SF journals such as Starburst and TV Zone and is the author of the behind the scenes book, *The Making Of Judge Dredd.*

PSI CORPS

Psi-Corps will be present throughout *The Alliance* staging various 'happenings'. Already notorious for their convention appearances, Psi-Corps are an enthusiastic and devout fan group who, since their first appearance at *Sigma957 (part4) The Landing Party* in February 1996, have been exploring and appreciating 'the darker side of B5'. But don't be fooled by their sinister reputation, they are in it for the fun and are definitely not for mundanes! *Psi-Corp* can be contacted at 6 Whitefield Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9UB - send SAE for subscription details or visit their table and pick up a flyer!

THE 5 TIMES

Des, Donna & Laurence

The Editorial Crew of *The 5 Times* will be at The 5 Times Table daily (open from 10 am - noon and 3 pm - 5 pm), situated at the rear of the Main Hall, in the *Babylon 5 UK Fan Club* Room.

Des Watkins is co-editor of *The 5 Times,* contributes to the *Official Babylon 5 Magazine,* is the author of 5 books and has worked extensively as a an editorial consultant & freelance journalist, being published in national newspapers & various magazines from *New Woman* to *Knave!*

Des, Donna and Laurence are founding members of the *Babylon 5 UK Fan Club* and make up the core of a small team responsible for compiling and editing the award-winning newsletter, *The 5 Times.* Donna, co-editor of *The 5 Times,* is a novelist and alternative therapy practitioner. Laurence also maintains the *Babylon 5 UK Homepage* (http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/brain/b5.htm) and is a neurosurgeon. They will be present throughout *The Alliance* and will also be hosting special Fan Club meetings in the Connaught Suite on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, giving members a chance to experience an even closer encounter with some of the guests... (check times at The 5 Times Table!) See back of this programme for more info on *Babylon 5 UK Fan Club* and *The 5 Times,* co-hosts of *The Alliance.*

THE CHARITIES

NSPCC and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital

The internationally respected Great Ormond Street Hospital was founded on Valentine's Day 1852 by Dr Charles West. With 10 beds, it provided the country's first specialist hospital for children at a time when malnutrition and disease meant only half those born reached adulthood. Today, the hospital is one of the foremost children's hospitals in the world. With 351 beds, and 32 clinical and surgical specialities it offers the widest range of paediatric specialities under one roof. Apart from the doctors and nurses there are dieticians, pharmacists, radiologists, numerous specialists and general staff as well as 200 scientists working for the Institute of Child Health.

For more than a century, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has been raising public awareness of abuse and cruelty to children and has helped to increase the safety of children in their own homes. The NSPCC receives around 48,000 requests for help each year and relies on charity donations for 90% of its funding.

WOLF 359 and the Babylon 5 UK Fan Club are honoured to be able to support both these very worthy children's charities

PROJECT SHUTTLE

The **Sponsors:**

Dreamweb,
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The Construction Team: Gordon Martin and Ken Hatch with Ann Lindup, Andy Bethune, Kaye Watson, Zeppo Stakounis, Ian Brachi, Lee Harris, B Jones, and *USS Excalibur - Starfleet Ball.*

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BABYLON 5 COSTUMES

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Prices start from around £60
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A Summer Party for just £10

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Guest: Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett the Bounty Hunter) work permitting

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THE ARC IN SPACE *Babylon 5*: In The Beginning

Babylon 5 got off the ground due to the concerted efforts of J Michael Straczynski and Doug Netter, formerly head of MGM before forming Rattlesnake Productions (his nickname at MGM was 'Rattlesnake' for reasons we can only guess at). They met whilst working on Straczynski's *Captain Power* series and Straczynski's infectious enthusiasm for *Babylon 5* rubbed off on Netter.

JMS had already written the 'treatment' for *Babylon 5*, which outlined the basis concepts, themes and feel of the show, and had also written the 'bible' for the show, which sets out the rules and parameters for potential writers and also ensures continuity and cohesion of its reality.

Straczynski had been involved with television science fiction for some time and was already a regular guest at conventions, often hosting discussions on the subject of what's wrong with TV SF and what should be done about it. The general answer to the problem was that science fiction on television had to be good TV and good SF.

Joining Straczynski and Netter was John Copeland as co-producer. Copeland started his film career in 1973 as assistant to Euan Lloyd at Twickenham Studios, and two years later was assistant director on the classic *Paper Tiger*, starring David Niven. He has since worked with Doug Netter on the mini-series *Wild Times, Roughnecks,* and *The Sacketts*, which was awarded and Emmy. They also worked together on the series *Five Mile Creek* and the pilot *for The Cherokee Trail*. He first worked with JMS on the pilot for *Captain Power*.

Graphic artist Peter Ledger was brought in to work on the look of the show and produced the first conceptual art and the B5 logo for use in selling BABYLON 5 to television producers.

After touting the series around some major TV production companies, including TREK makers Paramount along with CBS, HBO, ABC, etc, the ChrisCraft TV consortium picked up on the idea and began working with JMS and Netter on getting *Babylon 5* a deal that would get it onto the screen. At around this time, Warner Television were covertly developing their consortium of independent TV stations which would become the Prime Time Entertainment, they saw plans for *Babylon 5* and wanted it for one of their flagship productions for the new PTEN which would be the USA's fifth network.

Warners knew of Straczynski's reputation for cost effective television, his track record had shown him capable of consistently delivering finished productions ahead of schedule and under budget. They saw *Babylon 5* as a fairly safe bet and actively wanted to branch into the under represented genre of TV SF. They seem to have just let JMS get on with it and have not interfered with the concept or the structure of the series. This unusual situation is a contributory factor to the strikingly individual nature of the show.

When pre-production began in earnest, veteran science fiction author Harlan Ellison was brought in as conceptual consultant and script advisor to writers new to the show.

The look of the show was to be of prime importance and this would rely heavily on convincing special effects. British SFX wizard Ron Thornton was taken aboard. Thornton had been working in TV special effects for a long time, being a veteran of *Dr Who, Blake's 7, The Addams Family* and *Highlander 2*. However, this time he would be working with an entirely new approach at Foundation Imaging, using computer generated imaging, or CGI.

One of the other major elements in creating 'the look' was the set design by John Iacovelli. Iacovelli is an accomplished production designer who has worked on many TV and movie productions incling the shows, Santa Barbara, the Cosby Show and Ruby In Paradise. He also art directed on *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*.

Another important element to make up the look of the show was... the make up. JMS wanted to make *Babylon 5* realistic in its portrayal of the diversity of alien life forms. There would be an alien section within the station to accommodate creatures that breathe strange gasses or require varied gravity and air pressures, there would be humanoid, insectoid, carbon based, silicon based, and so on...

Not all the main characters would need to be humanoid, at least one of the key cast would be totally alien and require an environment suit to interact with the others.

John Criswell of Criswell Productions took on the task of making aliens seem real. With his team he created more than 50 aliens for the pilot movie, having taken the brief to create just 20. Criswell himself appears as the gorilla-like bar tender in the pilot movie.

Illustrator Ted Haigh contributed many designs, including the schematics for the *Babylon 5* station itself. He also worked on the set production design and was instrumental in creating the environment within *Babylon 5*, paying equal attention to details such as signage and uniform badges.

The next task was to cast and film the 90 minute pilot movie. The principal actors were cast in June 1992 and filming commenced, at the Santa Clarita Production facility, on 10 August, taking only 25 days to complete. Less than two months later the movie was ready for screening. In keeping with Straczynski's method of interacting and gathering feedback from fans of the genre, he presented a special screening to lucky fans at an SF convention in Massachusetts. With the experience of viewing the movie with a real audience, the final edit was completed by mid-January 1993. Over the next few months the pilot movie was aired across the USA and the spell of *Babylon 5* was cast.

Now characters and environments which had only existed in the mind of one man, began taking form in the imagination of millions of viewers. We began to get to know the main characters, and found them to be three dimensional with convincing depth.

Heading up the cast was Commander Sinclair, played by Michael O'Hare - a TV actor of some note and an acclaimed star of the stage. He was the first white actor to be nominated by the Black Theater Community of New York for the coveted Audelco Award as Best Actor for his performance in the play *Shades Of*

Brown. On Broadway he established himself as a leading man in three major productions: *A Few Good Men*, in which he played Lt. Jessup - the role taken by Jack Nicholson in the movie, David Williamson's *Players*, and George Bernard Shaw's *Man And Superman*. Off-Broadway, he was acclaimed for his role in Bertold Brecht's *Galileo*, which was given a top ten listing by *Time Magazine* for that year.

His film credits include *By A Thread*, as well as *The Promise* and *Ambulance*. On television he is known for his roles in the prime-time mini-series: *A Rage Of Angels, A Case Of Deadly Force*, and *Keefer*. He has also appeared along side William Shatner in *TJ Hooker* and in the *Cosby Mysteries*. Notably, he appeared in Sterling Silliphant's *Fly Away Home*, a Vietnam drama which also starred Bruce Boxleitner.

A relative newcomer, Jerry Doyle, joined the cast as Sinclair's right hand man, Security Chief Michael Garibaldi. Doyle had only recently began pursuing an acting career, when he landed the role and quickly established Garibaldi as a much loved character with a huge... fan following.

Jerry Doyle was born and raised in Brooklyn, the eldest son of a police officer. He majored in aeronautical science at a Florida college and went on to attain a BSc in Aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. His first job was as a private and corporate jet salesman.

Before joining the B5 crew, Jerry had worked in finance on Wall Street for nine years and had notched up a few TV credits including his debut in a brief appearance in *Moonlighting, The Bold & The Beautiful, Homefront* and *Reasonable Doubts*. He has also voiced for animation series *Duckman* and *Captain Simian & The Space Monkeys*.

The other principal players included West African born, Johnny Seka - an esteemed actor with a long and illustrious career in more than 25 feature films and many TV mini-series, which spans three decades, Tamlyn Tomita and Patricia Tallman Peter Jurasik, Andreas Katsuals and Mira Furlan also headed the cast as the alien ambassadors.

Prior to joining B5, Andreas Katsulas, a graduate of Indiana university, had been a member of Peter Brooks highly acclaimed and prestigious theatre company appearing in such productions as *The Mahabharata, Measure For Measure, La Tragedie De Carmen* and *The Conference Of the Birds*.

His notable feature film roles include starring opposite Christopher Walken in *Communion* - the autobiographical alien abduction movie based on the book by the original 'Streib' - Whitley Streiber. He also played the villain in Ridley Scott's *Someone To Watch Over Me*, the one armed man in the Harrison Ford version of *The Fugitive*, and featured in *The Sicilian*. Recently he appeared in a US tele-movie about the bombing of the World Trade Center, in which he plays Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahmen. He previously played a middle-eastern VIP with terrorist links in the Kurt Russell led movie, *Executive Decision*.

By April 1993, the response to the syndicated pilot movie was favourable enough to secure a series deal from Warner for the new Prime Time Entertainment Network and pre-production for the series had begun...

There were a few changes between the pilot movie, The Gathering and the first episode, Midnight On The Firing Line.

The production moved from Santa Clarita to a huge warehouse in Sun Valley which was to be transformed into the Babylonian Productions Studio. Johnny Sekka was replaced by Richard Biggs as Dr Stephen Franklin, the new Station physician. Claudia Christian took over from Tamlyn Tomita in C&C. Andrea Thompson was the new on-board telepath. Andrea Thompson played Talia Winters for Season1 and most of Season 2 until Lyta returned with a vengeance *in Divided Loyalties*. Andrea Thompson, who was raised in Dayton, Ohio, has since appeared in the series *J.A.G.* and recently in the independent feature *A Gun, A Car, A Blonde*. She began her acting career in *Falcon Crest* and went on to appear in various TV shows including *Quantum Leap, Murder She Wrote, Spencer For Hire, Baywatch* and *Crime Story*.

Anne Bruice was in charge of the future's fashion design and had the task of dressing the human and alien characters. Along with her small team, including Kim Holly, Bruice developed and embellished the look established in the Pilot.

Ex *Tangerine Dream*-er, Christopher Franke was welcomed on-board as the composer for the moody and moving soundtrack music, replacing ex-*Police* drummer Stuart Copeland, who had provided the score for *The Gathering*.

Filming for the first season was underway by July and continued until 23 March 1994. *Midnight On The Firing Line* had premiered across USA television on 24 January. The Arc was truly underway...

As we have shared the excitement and anticipation of the main storyline and its unfolding plots, there have bee several changes - characters have developed, changed, even gone full-circle, new faces have come and gone...

Marcus Cole, played by Jason Carter, joined the war against the Darkness at the start of Season 3 in *Matters Of Honor*.

Netter Digital took over the CGI visual effects from Ron Thornton's Foundation Imaging for Season 4. Season 4 also saw the return of Wayne Alexander as the alien, Lorien in the first six episodes. Wayne had previously appeared as the Vorlon emissary Sebastian, or 'Jack', in the lynch-pin episode *Comes The Inquisitor*.

In the arena of TV SF, where most series are cancelled before their second year, *Babylon 5* is a huge achievement and a monument to the vision of The Great Maker, J Michael Straczynski. Certainly, this vast saga will continue to enthral audiences long after the conclusion of its epic five year arc.

The year is 1997... the name of the show is *Babylon 5*.

A VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE FIRST APPEARED IN 5x1
REVISED & UP-DATED FOR *THE ALLIANCE* BY DES WATKINS

THE ALLIANCE Main Hall Schedule 11 - 14 July 1997

FRIDAY 11th

10:00 main hall opens

10:30 Intro & Videos

11:00 Opening Ceremony introducing the guests

13:00 Claudia Christian

14:00 Patricia Tallman ...joined by Jeffrey Willerth

15:00 Bill Mumy

15:45 break

16:00 Richard Biggs ...joined by Jason Carter

17:00 Ed Wasser and JoshuaCox

18:00 Peter Jurasik

19:00 main hall closed

20:00 How The West Was Won Party

See notice boards for supporting programme times, including Make-up demonstrations, B5 Role Playing Game sessions & special events - also posted on the video notice boards in the Main Hall.

SATURDAY 12th

09:30 Stephen Furst

10:15 Julie Caitlin Brown

11:00 charity auction

11:30 Walter Koenig

12:30 main hall closed

13:30 J M S

15:00 Mira Furlan

15:45 break

16:00 Bruce Boxleitner

17:00 guest panel

18:00 main hall closed

20:00 Fancy Dress Competition

20:30 Walter Koenig performs H. P. Lovecraft's *The Rats In The Wall*

21:00 Heroes & Villains Party

SUNDAY 13th

09:30 Ed Wasser

10:15 directors' panel

10:45 Richard Biggs

11:30 Claudia Christian

12:30 main hall closed

13:30 Peter Jurasik

14:30 Patricia Tallman

15:30 Jeff Conaway ...joined by Jason Carter

16:15 break

16:30 J M S

18:00 main hall closed

20:00 SFX Awards Ceremony

21:00 Awards Party

MONDAY 14th

09:30 guest panel

10:30 Jeffrey Willerth

11:00 Joshua Cox

11:30 guest panel

12:30 main hall closed

13:30 Bill Mumy and Stephen Furst

14:30 Mira Furlan

15:30 Walter Koenig

16:15 break

16:30 Julie Caitlin Brown

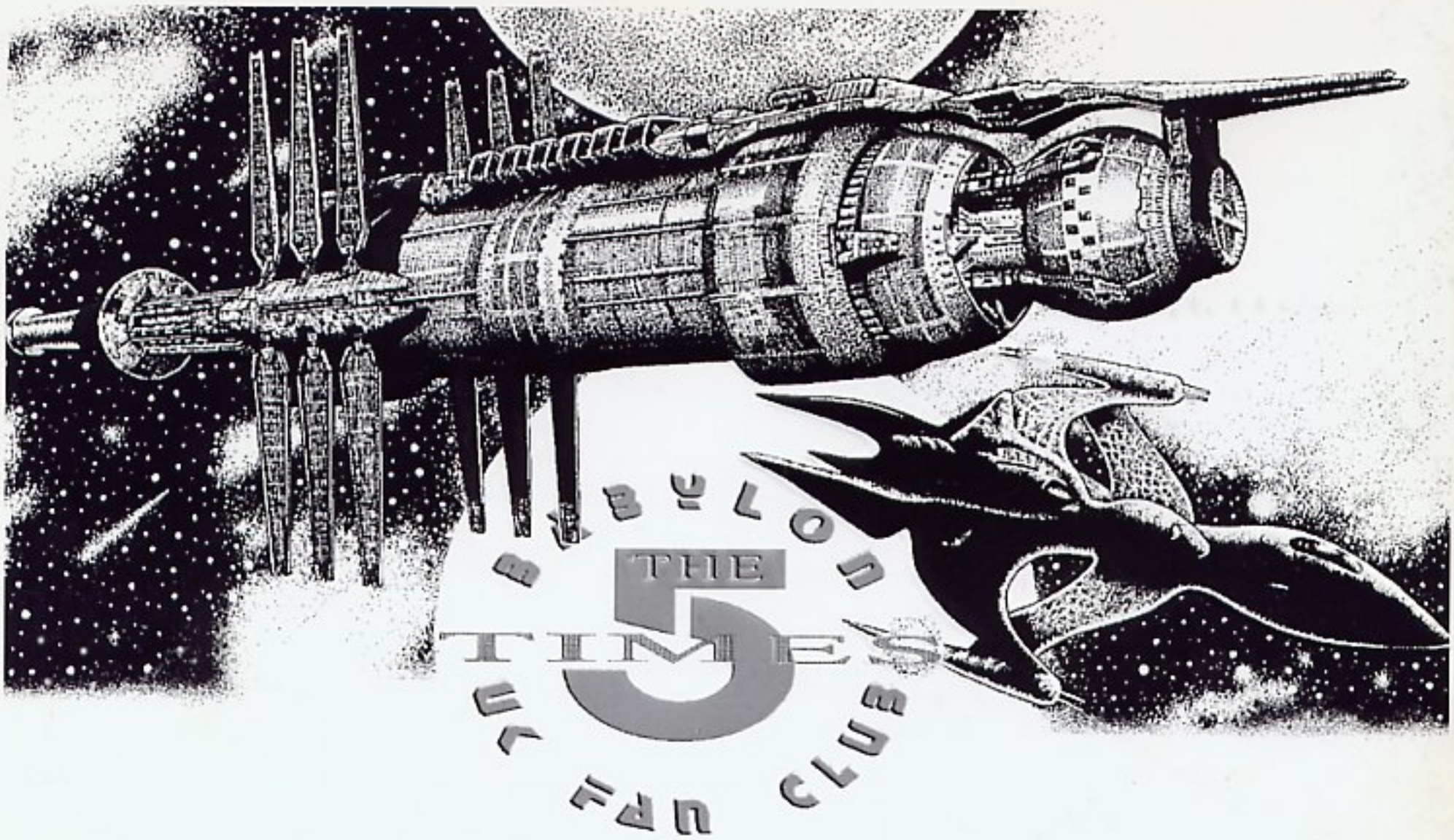
17:00 Bruce Boxleitner

18:00 finale

19:00 main hall closed

20:00 Lurkers' Party

NOTE: **all times are approximate and subject to change without notice. Up-dates will be posted on the video notice boards in the Main Hall.**

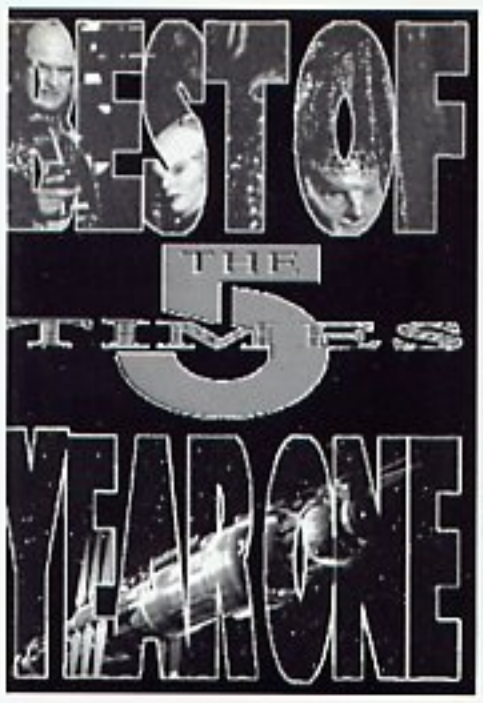
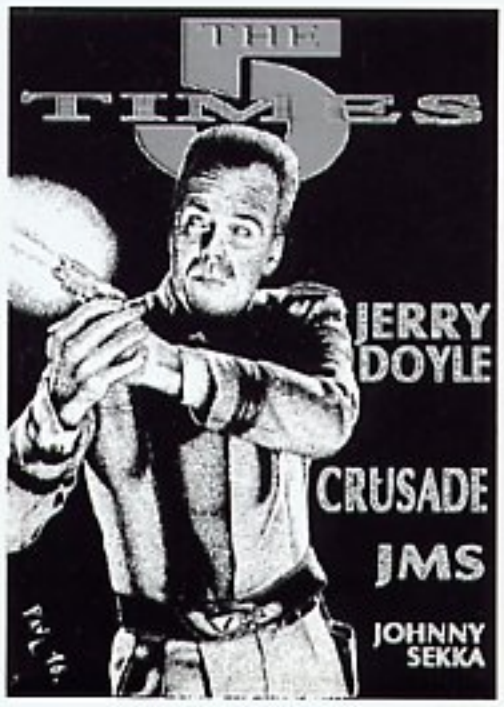
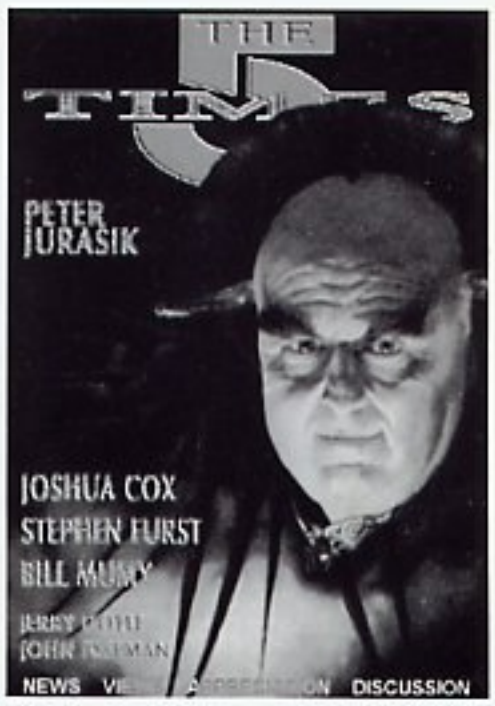


The 5 Times - the award-winning newsletter of the **BABYLON 5 UK Fan Club** - brings you exclusive interviews with cast & crew, articles & features, ***plus*** competitions, details of forthcoming events, convention reports and exclusive artwork & photos.

The regular ***Trader To The Stars*** section updates you on new official products and special merchandise offers. The ***info*** pages are crammed with news and production information. The ***Babcom*** forum is a lively arena for members to interact and put forward opinions and observations about *Babylon 5* and related topics. Other regular features include an on-going and detailed episode guide and an international Pen-Pal service.

The 5 Times is available exclusively to members of the **BABYLON 5 UK Fan Club**.

The **BABYLON 5 UK Fan Club** is the *original Babylon 5* fan club (founded May 1994) and is fully sanctioned by the show's creator and executive producer, J Michael Straczynski and by the *Official Babylon 5 Fan Club* (in the USA).

Your welcome pack will include your exclusive button badge and **BABCOM ID Card**. Subscription is £12.50 for one year or £22 for two years. Lurker Membership* (additional **BABCOM ID Card** and badge for same address) is +50p. Payable to **'QUESTING BEAST LIMITED'**. (EEC same price, rest of world + 50%)

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